



LARC



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ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC., INC. - a 501(c)3 Corporation January 2021

FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

ARRL Bulletin 41 ARLB041 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT December 31, 2020

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications."

In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. **All fees are per application.** There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

"After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the NPRM for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated," the FCC said in the R&O. "We adopt the proposal from the NPRM to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated."

The R&O can be found online in PDF format at,
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-184A1.pdf>.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, "once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated."

January 7, 2021
1300 Bertrand Drive Lafayette, LA

VE Testing TBD w5ddl.org

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By the

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.

P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

DATES TO REMEMBER

GENERAL MEETING

January 7, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Meeting will be Over The Air

Lafayette, LA

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/>

Local 2-Meter Nets

Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM

147.040 PL 103.5 +0.600 Lafayette, LA

Tuesday

Region 4 SkyWarn Net 7:00 PM

145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM

146.820 PL 103.5 New Iberia, LA

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December 2020



VE Test Session

Due to the restrictions put on everybody, it appears there was no VE testing during December 2020.

Be safe everybody, and have yourself a Happy New Year!



73, de Greg ~ K5LFT

Arecibo Observatory Suffers a Fatal Blow as Instrument Platform Falls

The 900-ton instrument platform of the 305-meter radio telescope at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico fell some 400 feet Tuesday morning, crashing into the huge, already-damaged dish below, the National Science Foundation (NSF) reported in a December 1 Tweet. "No injuries were reported," NSF said, adding that it is still assessing the situation. "Our top priority is maintaining safety." The calamity not only was a final and fatal blow for the observatory but for the people of Puerto Rico.

Head of Telescope Operations Angel Vazquez, WP3R, called December 1 "indeed a sad day." Vazquez was in the Observatory's control room at the time, salvaging important instruments when he heard a loud noise.

"At around 7:55 AM, the platform collapsed due to the extra stress on the existing cables because of the main cable failure in November. Strands were starting to pop all weekend long, and it was just a matter of time," he told ARRL. "It came off the easternmost tower (T4) and took about 15 seconds. The azimuth arm that housed the dome came off the track, fell into the dish a little north of center and the triangle was pulled by the other existing cables to the northwestern part of the dish. The tops of the towers broke as well. This was a 900-ton platform, and the dome was smashed like an eggshell."

Vazquez said the Observatory still has a 12-meter dish that will be used for radio astronomy, as well as a LIDAR Lab and an Optical Lab with photometers. "The site by no means is closed and it wasn't the intent of NSF to close the facility, he said. "They did want us to stabilize the platform, so it could be lowered safely. We are looking into rebuild possibilities."

On August 10, an auxiliary cable that helped to support the platform snapped and fell, causing a 100-foot gash in the reflector dish. After an extensive evaluation, NSF announced on November 19 that the damaged radio telescope -- in service for nearly 60 years -- was beyond repair and would be decommissioned due to safety concerns.

The iconic dish has served as a backdrop for several science fiction movies. The Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club, KP4AO, is headquartered at the Observatory, and several other radio amateurs are employed there in addition to Vazquez.

Before the fall:
Arecibo Observatory in better
days.



FCC to Require Email Addresses on Applications

Amateur radio licensees and candidates will have to provide the FCC with an email address on applications, effective in mid-2021. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as defective. The FCC is fully transitioning to electronic correspondence and will no longer print or provide wireless licensees with hard-copy authorizations or registrations by mail. A Report and Order (R&O) on "Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services" in WT Docket 19-212 was adopted on September 16. The new rules will go into effect 6 months after publication in the Federal Register, which hasn't happened yet, but the FCC is already strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. When an email address is provided, licensees will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses when the application is granted.

ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions. The schedule is subject to change.

QSLing in an Online World: Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Learn all about the changing methods of QSLing in amateur radio, including traditional paper QSL cards, and electronic QSLing methods, such as Logbook of The World and eQSL.

Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 10 AM PST / 1 PM EST (1800 UTC)

Amateur Radio Logging: Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Discover the advantages of keeping an electronic amateur radio log. Find out why you may need more than one software program for logging-contesting, digital modes, special events, and more. Learn about using one full-featured logging program to pull everything together, interface with outside databases, handle electronic QSLing, and so on. The discussion will include file formats, importing and exporting data between programs, submitting contest logs online, and safe backup of data.

Thursday, January 7, 2021, 12:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM EST (2030 UTC)

VHF/UHF Contesting and SOTA; A Perfect Match: Brian Betz, W7JET

Explore the challenge of VHF UHF contesting and the success of the large-scale participation of SOTA Summit activators in Arizona for the January VHF contest.

Thursday, January 14, 2021, 12:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM EST (2030 UTC)

Emergency Communications: Why Train? North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Greg Evans, K5GTX

Why should we train? Utilizing amateur radio operators in an emergency communication situation is a key function that can save lives. We must be able to respond to the needs of our served agencies quickly and responsibly. Topics covered include: Incident Command System and its relevance; building on consistent training; interoperability with multiple communication providers; interoperability with VOAD and partners, and Mission One: Get the information delivered.

Thursday, January 21, 2021, 12:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM EST (2030 UTC)

Local 2-Meter Nets

MONDAY

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

WEDNESDAY

Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM
146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

**TUESDAY**

Region 4 Skywarn Net 7:00 PM
145.370 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

THURSDAY

On-The-Air General Meeting 7:00
147.040 +0.600 PL 103.50 W6EXI repeater

AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net

Net Controllers will rotate each week and held on the 146.820 W5DDL Repeater only.

The AARA Monday Night Net and the Silent Key Memorial Net is being held on the 146.820.

The January 2021 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website. [Net Schedules](#)

REGION 4 SKYWARN NET

Each Tuesday night at 7:00 PM (local), the Region 4 Skywarn Net will take place on the 145.370 Skywarn Repeater in Lafayette, LA. Net Control Operators will alternate each week.

In case the 145.370 repeater fails, the net will be held on the 146.820 W5DDL repeater PL Tone 103.5.

The January 2021 schedule can be found at this link: [Net Schedules](#)

When using the Skywarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 – SW Quadrant 141.3 – SE Quadrant 94.8 – Central 103.5

See our website for additional information: <http://www.w5ddl.org/repeaters.htm>



Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing names to be missing from the list.



01-03	KE5UPM	Allen
01-05	W5AG	Archie
01-06	N5KNY	Paul
01-12	KI5ARR	Paul
01-15	KG5MKY	Sean
01-18	KI5ARX	Michael
01-22	KI5IQA	Jason
01-26	N5MCY	Chris
01-29	KI5EGM	Marty
02-03	N5NVP	Jim
02-04	KB5WI	Weston
02-04	KA5QME	Ann
02-04	WA5TAQ	Glynn

Don't forget to renew your membership by January 31st.

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174
Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



*Share the Fun ~
Bring a Friend
to be a HAM.*

VIRGIE AUBIN N5JXV
5871 BEECHWOOD DR.
BATON ROUGE, LA 70805

HAPPY NEW YEAR MRS. VIRGIE de HERMAN & RAMONA

UPCOMING EVENTS

January General Meeting
Winter Field Day

January 7, 2021 7PM @1300 Betrand Dr. Lafayette, LA
January 29-30 @Steve Webre's farm

For any additional information, check the W5DDL.org website

HOLIDAY CORN DIP

3- (11 Oz.) cans of Mex-Style Corn
1- (4 Oz.) can of diced green chilies, drained
5- green onions, chopped
1- (8 Oz.) container of sour cream
3/4-cup of mayonnaise
10 Oz. of shredded cheddar cheese

In a medium-size mixing bowl, combine the Mexican-style corn, green chilies, green onions, sour cream, mayonnaise, and cheddar cheese. Mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.

FCC Information Service

*Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur
Radio license inquiries about new/
vanity call signs: 1-888-225-5322
This will connect you the FCC Na-
tional Call Center, handled by the
FCC's Consumer Information Bu-
reau. Amateurs having ULS prob-
lems or questions should contact
the FCC's ULS Technical Support
staff at: 202-414-1250 or:*

ulscomm@fcc.gov.

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

*New call sign information can
also be obtained from the ARRL/
VEC at 860-594-3000.*

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlyec>

*The mailing address to the FCC
is:
Federal Communications Commis-
sion,
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554*